Planning Commission Remote Meeting Meeting Minutes December 7, 2021





Chair Adam Yanasak called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Kathryn Beck, Christine Lavra, Carly McGinn, and Michael Finch.

Commissioners Absent: Chris Holland, Michael Zelinski, Alex Lark, and Charles Adkins Staff Present: Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Becky McCrary, and Kathy Davis

Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Lavra made a motion to approve the November 2, 2021 meeting minutes with one edit in Commissioner Holland's motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion with the amendment.

Vote: Commissioner Finch, yes; Commissioner McGinn, yes; Commissioner Lavra, yes; Commissioner Beck, abstain; and Chair Yanasak; yes.

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Reports

None

Staff Comments

Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director, stated that the Snohomish County Steering Committee had completed their work on the population and employment growth targets that will guide the Comprehensive Plan updates for all the cities and unincorporated areas within Snohomish County. That recommendation will go to County Council for approval in January/February 2022.

Mr. Stevens-Wajda thanked Commissioner Beck for her years of service on Planning Commission.

General Citizen Comments

None

Item 6: Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Work Program

Becky McCrary, Long Range Planning Manager, presented information on the plan update project overview and objectives, plan update project process, Planning Commission role in update project, and asked for Planning Commission feedback on four questions.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Finch commented that the presentation was very thorough. Chair Yanasak agreed.

Commissioner McGinn would like to discuss policies that help guide overall design, the possibility of a design review board, protections of historic buildings located in the downtown area, and that the design and construction materials were appropriate and would accommodate Everett's future growth.

Commissioner Finch suggested that Planning Commission could host a workshop in advance of a Planning Commission meeting. Regarding public outreach, he stated that it was important to encourage as many different viewpoints from stakeholders as possible, and to provide a diversity of engagement opportunities for those citizens that may not otherwise be reached.

Mr. Stevens-Wajda commented that public outreach would be an important priority during the Comprehensive Plan Update process. He appreciated Commissioner McGinn's comments on design review. He stated that the growth targets assigned to Everett were significant, which meant that Everett would have to plan for a lot of development and a lot of change, and the only way that would work was with the support of the community. Future development should be well designed, thoughtful, and integrated into individual neighborhoods. Historic preservation was also an important consideration during past planning efforts. The City does have an Historical Commission, historic preservation programs, historic overlay zones, and historic home designations at the City level that support the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures.

Mr. Stevens-Wajda provided some information on the scoping phase and the development of alternatives that would be studied through a detailed analysis during the environmental review process. He stated that the City hoped to hire consultants to help provide good scientific background and quantitative methods to study the alternatives.

Citizen Comments

Ismail Mohammad, 3102 Rucker Avenue, stated that he had no comments at this time but would be participating throughout the process.

Glynis Casey, US Navy, stated that she planned to be involved throughout the comprehensive plan update process.

Item 7: Everett Link Light Rail Extension Early Scoping Letter

Mr. Stevens-Wajda provided information on the light rail extension update including the status, the ST project team and the Everett program team, the project purpose and need, proposed comments, and the next steps.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Finch referred to page 8 of the Sound Transit three extension early scoping information November 21 report and asked about the provisional station shown at SR 99 and Airport Road and the three further North stations shown as new station areas. Mr. Stevens-Wajda responded that the map shown represented what was planned prior to project financing and realignment. Provisional stations were designed so the line wouldn't shut down during construction of other station areas. The City's preference is that Sound Transit study and consider the relative performance and impacts from deferring either of the two provisional stations in SW Everett. The City had a preference to open the Airport Road station earlier than later.

Commissioner Finch was in support of the letter; however, he felt that the comment letter should be more assertive since Everett citizens have been paying taxes to fund the system since the late 90's. He added that light rail would also help Everett accommodate the future growth targets. Mr. Stevens-Wajda stated that he would relay Commissioner Finch's concerns to City Council.

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None

Mr. Stevens-Wajda and Commissioners thanked Commissioner Beck for her years of service.

ADJOURNED 8:01 PM

Planning Commission Secretary

Date

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